

NATIONAL WAR SOUVENIRS.

Relics From Fields of American Valor Preserved in the National Museum.

The great iron lock which temporarily barred the way of the brave American Marines when they sought to force the main gate of the City of Peking last year has been added to the interesting collection of war relics in the National Museum. This exhibit is labeled "China Relief Expedition, 1900." With the queer lock is its key, a bar of iron about four feet long, strongly curved, and resembling a lever. The lock is of a decidedly ancient pattern, and the visitor would never suspect it to be a lock but for an explanatory placard which is attached to it. In shape this old piece of mechanism resembles a primitive hand-made jack used for raising heavy bodies. It is covered with the rust of ages. The lock, with the key, weighs about 200 pounds.

When the Marines charged upon the front gate, directly opposite the Palace of the Emperor of China, Aug. 14, 1900, they found it secured by this massive iron affair. After considerable effort, in the face of a heavy fire from the Chinese forces, the gate was taken and opened for their entry.

SPANISH WAR NAVAL RELICS.

The destruction of Cervera's Spanish

fleet is a case containing many mementoes of the Spanish campaign. A variety of machetes, from the rough blades used by the Cubans to the regulation pattern for private soldiers in the Spanish army, which operated in Cuba; the sword carried by Lieut. J. G. Ord, U. S. Army, who was killed at the head of his company of the 6th Regulars while leading his men to the assault on San Juan Hill, July 1, 1898.

There is also a bugle, or "clarion," as the Spanish soldiers call it, which sounded "revolve" and "taps" for Spanish Battalion d'Ast. This instrument, with the bugler who carried it, was captured in front of Santiago.

Another case is devoted to relics from the ill-fated battleship Maine, many of them burned and twisted.

TROPHIES SECURED BY LAND FORCES.

After the surrender of the City of Santiago several American officers, in rummaging about the old Arsenal Building, found five ancient battle-axes, the oldest of which were used in the 15th and 16th centuries, with wide-expanding blades and handles nearly five feet in length. These, Shafter and Wheeler received one each of these quaint axes.

Santiago. This vessel is simply a section of hollow bamboo log, about five feet long, five inches in diameter, with the lower end tapered and a wooden plug. Capt. R. P. Leary, U. S. Navy, presented to the Museum an electric lamp which was attached to the ceiling of the Admiral's cabin of the U. S. S. San Francisco. This lamp, like the other mentioned elsewhere in this article, was wrecked by a Spanish shell from Morro Castle—the last shot of the war, fired Aug. 13, 1898.

OTHER CUBAN AND PORTO RICAN RELICS.

An interesting relic of the Porto Rico

campaign, conducted by Gen. Nelson A.

U. S. A., is a blood-stained Spanish

flag used in the campaign around

Guayama. Another is a large yellow

and red cloth, called a "banda Nacional,"

which was issued by Spain to her Porto

Rican volunteers in place of knapsacks.

On it are stamped in big black letters

the name and number of the battalion to

which issued.

Then there is the Spanish flag used as

the garrison standard of Fort San Cristobal,

San Juan, Porto Rico, during the

entire war with Spain, and hoisted over

the fort during the bombardment of the

American fleet, May 12, 1898. The original

yellow half of the flag has faded until

it is now a dingy white. The royal

Spanish coat-of-arms are embossed in its

center. In the same case is what re-

mains of a regimental flag captured from

the Spaniards at Coma, Porto Rico,

Aug. 11, 1898.

Nearly all the United States troops who

participated in the Santiago campaign

were provided with metal or celluloid

identification tags, to be worn on the

person to identify the wearer in case of

casualty. The celluloid tags were issued

gratis by the U. S. M. A., which or-

ganization did a noble work during the

war. On the tags the following words

and blanks are printed in indelible ink:

"I am _____, Company _____, Regiment

_____, Brigade _____, Division _____, Corps

_____."

The Cuban colored General (Maceo)

was assassinated by members of the

Spanish "San Quintin" regiment. In com-

memoration of this deed the official let-

ters and documents of the regiment

are embellished with an engraving il-

lustrating the assassination by the San

Quintins, copies of which form an exhibit

in the Museum.

COLLECTION OF FILIPINO BOLOS.

There is one case in the Museum de-

voted almost entirely to a splendid as-

sortment of bolos captured by the Amer-

icans in the Philippines. A Filipino

who has risen to the rank of an officer

in the army preserves carefully the bolos

which he has acquired in his upward

career. At home the bolos are kept in a

place sacred to itself, usually over the

door of the main room. It enters into

the religious life of the Moros, and before

its use the men and women perform

sacred rites. The best bolos are manu-

factured in Mindanao. The classification

of the social and professional significance

of the bolos is a subject of much inter-

est. The bolos are in fact a sort of

social and professional rank, and are

used in the same way as the European

armor.

The bolos proper, with handle cut from

the horn of the carabao, or water buffalo,

and blade hammered out of a piece of

steel, has given the generic name to all

classes of the weapon. The talibong, car-

rying with it social distinction, is a sort

of headman's sword or ax, from four

to five feet long, and weighing as much

as eight pounds. It is generally carried

by a scattered detachment of men in the

advance line of attack, whose duty it is

to decapitate the wounded enemy on the

field of battle. Formerly these headmen

chopped off the heads of both dead and

wounded to be sure that none were left

alive. Hence the Filipino battlefields of

the past were littered with headless bod-

ies.

Many kinds of bolos are in the Na-

tional Museum collection. Some have

straight blades, others curved, some

waved, and all are literally as sharp as

razors. Some of the finer weapons are

decorated and inlaid with precious metals

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